

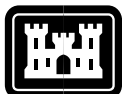
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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

Volume 36, No. 3

# Yankee Engineer

January 2000

## Repairs to Hodges Village Dam completed

Repairs to fix a water seepage problem at the New England District's Hodges Village Dam in Oxford, Massachusetts, have been completed.

Seepage through the embankment and foundation materials occurred during operation of the dam in flood events in 1968, 1987 and 1993. Prior to this \$17 million project, corrective measures following each event included installation of a shallow downstream toe drain in 1968, construction of a deep toe drain and relief well system in 1990, and emergency repair of the toe drain in April 1993.

The finished project was a much-

improved Hodges. "There are significant improvements on dike 1," said Randy LeCuyer, Construction Representative. "There is now an access road at its base that wasn't there before. There is also a wider roadway on top of dike 1 with an improved guardrail system. A new gravel base course and stone protection were placed on the main dam and dike 1. We also installed new piezometers on the downstream side to monitor the water levels behind the dam."

The project, according to Jim Morrocco, Resident Engineer, went extremely well. "This is the smoothest

running \$17 million job that I've worked on," he said. "There was no contention with modifications. The project staff took care of any problems that arose."

Dave Stiddem, Park Manager for both the Buffumville and Hodges Village dams, was instrumental in getting early citizen involvement. "Before the project began, residents were worried about noise, dust and the traffic in and out of Hodges," said Jim. "But there were very few problems -- such as concerns about the vibrations from the chisel and the truck traffic."

"I think that the residents were glad to have us here because they know we're doing a job to help them and protect them," said Randy. "It went very well."

Extensive outreach to the public, organized and presented by Dave and his staff, in the form of meetings with the Town of Oxford, exhibits and tours of the project kept residents informed. "The project was well publicized," said Randy. "When it was safe, the rangers who work at the dam gave tours of the construction site. We had coloring books for the kids, and the rangers built an information kiosk which showed a diagram of the dam and the project's timeline."

Construction of Hodges Village Dam was initiated in March 1958 and

*Continued on page 6*



Photo by C.J. Allen

*The access bridge leading to the Hodges Village gatehouse had to be removed during the construction. It was replaced when work was completed.*

# Yankee Voices

Ray Cottengaim  
Real Estate



## Inclement Weather Hotline

The Inclement Weather Hotline is up and running. As a reminder, the telephone number for the Hotline announcement is **978-318-8346**.

You may also listen to WRKO (680 AM) or watch Channel 7's Morning News. New England District Inclement Weather Hotline announcements will begin at 5:45 a.m.

## Congratulations

...to **Gary Morin** and his wife, **Mary**, on the birth of their son, **Jacob William Morin**, December 12. Jacob, the couple's first child, weighed eight pounds, nine ounces.

...to those who donated blood during the District Blood Drive on December 14. About 62 pints of blood were collected -- six from first-time donors.

## Sympathy

...to the family of **Edward Campiglio**, retired survey crew chief, who passed away December 16, 1999.

## District CFC Campaign a success

On behalf of the Combined Federal Campaign, we would like to thank you for your support during the 1999 campaign.

Please also thank your agency manager, Ms. Angie Vanaria, for her continued support. The average donation per employee increased to \$137. The total raised by your agency for the 1999 campaign was \$25,910 with a 56-percent participation rate.

Please extend to your employees our appreciation for their generosity and the effort made to make your 1999 campaign a success.

Because of these efforts, your agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District, will receive an Achievement Award and Angie will receive a Certificate of Excellence.

Sincerely,

**Dorothy L. Hubler**  
1999 CFC Loaned Executive

**Elizabeth Cooper**  
1999 CFC Vice Chair

## Exercising for the New Year

Here are some tips to improve your New Year's exercise program.

- Stick to an exercise program of at least three to five workouts per week; strive for consistency.
- Your routine should include cardiovascular (aerobic) workouts as well as exercises to increase muscle strength.
- Listen to your body to select intensity, duration, frequently and type of exercise. Work at your own pace. You will want to start slowly and gradually build up to a full-fledged workout session.
- The most important part of an exercise program is that of building your body from the mid-section. Strong abdominal muscles will help you exercise more efficiently, burning more calories throughout your whole body.

*(Ideas Unlimited)*

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# New awards policy is a commitment to excellence

**Col. Brian E. Osterndorf**  
**District Engineer**



I am a big fan of the old serials. Some of you will admit to being old enough to remember (another bunch of you actually remember but won't admit to it) the Saturday matinees when the action serial, usually presented in 15 or so chapters, would precede the main feature. The idea was that at the conclusion of each episode, the hero or heroine was left in a perilous pre-

dicament, the suspense of which would lure you back to the theater next week to see how the hero/heroine survived. Although lacking the drama and suspense of an oncoming train, my column in the last issue left you with a bit of a cliffhanger.

*As you formulate your own annual performance objectives and discuss them with your supervisor, determine how you can contribute to attaining these goals and set high standards for yourself. We will demonstrate that we value most those that set high marks and struggle to succeed and less those that do not try to achieve everything they can.*

As we resume our story, our hero (hey, it's my story!) produces from his utility belt a new policy on awards that will provide a better way for supervisors at all levels to recognize and reward excellence, and do so in a more timely and complete fashion.

The underlying foundation for awards has not changed. Awards are designed to reward demonstrated excellence. We all appreciate a good job; a person that performs well and basically does what is expected is valuable to any organization. However, awards are designed to encourage performance above and beyond expectations and to reward those that strive to stretch their performances.

Many of you have told me that the existing policy actually served a contrary purpose; instead of rewarding and incentivizing, the old policy actually was a disincentive. I

asked the senior leaders to develop some ideas on how to use awards for their intended purposes, and to be fair in their applications.

The policy is published on the District Intranet. I hope you agree that there is a great deal of innovation and creativity associated with this new policy and that it provides many more opportunities for rewarding excellence.

- Supervisors have the ability to provide on-the-spot rewards. Many exceptional acts and performances take place out of the general spotlight. Now the immediate supervisor will have an ability to recognize that achievement when it happens.

- A great deal of our success is achieved through teamwork; we will be able to recognize high-performing teams.

- A single board will consider all award submittals and we will be able to be more fair and equitable when considering these submittals.

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**We all appreciate a good job; a person that performs well and basically does what is expected is valuable to any organization. However, awards are designed to encourage performance above and beyond expectations and to reward those that strive to stretch their performances.**

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- Col. Brian E. Osterndorf

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- We will continue to recognize Special Acts and expand individual recognition within a specific functional area.

- The part I like best is that each person and his or her rater will have to collaborate in order to mutually determine what constitutes excellence, and the rater must then be able to articulate that level of excellence to the awards board. We will provide each rater examples of what we consider to be excellence, but the point is that you are all encouraged to challenge yourselves and stretch your performance.

Everyone in this district has impressed me with his or her dedication and ability. As a District, we have a vast potential to grow and improve. The District Operational Plan, and the annual goals that are developed, are ambitious attempts to propel the District into the 21st Century as the clearly preeminent federal organization in New England, and the best District in the Corps. I am committed to excellence and ask that you similarly commit yourselves. I am pleased that our new awards policy will better allow us to recognize that commitment and provide rewards more promptly and fairly.

# John Anderson, RMO, retires from District

John Anderson, Resource Management, has decided to retire. His friends from Resource Management threw a retirement luncheon in his honor December 16 at the Sechuan Garden in Waltham, Mass. John retired with 33 years of service, 23 of which were with the Corps of Engineers.

Approximately 33 people attended his luncheon, which included employees from the headquarters, the field, and retirees. John's wife, Kathy, also attended the luncheon.

After the meal, Buzz McDonald, Chief of Resource Management, told John that he would be missed and that he wished him the best of luck in retirement. Buzz gave John a gift from the luncheon attendees – a card filled with scratch tickets. During the official part of the luncheon, Executive Assistant Joe Bocchino gave John a District Coin and a letter signed by Col. Osterndorf. Buzz presented John with his retirement certificate while Kathy fastened John's retirement pin to his tie.

Martha Rotundi told some funny stories about John, and told him that he was a very nice person.

John thanked everyone for coming to see him off. "I've been with four federal agencies," he said. "The Corps has been my favorite."

The retirees who attended John's luncheon were **Ellie Russo** and **Kay Kewer**. Andrea Clotz and MaryEllen Crawford arranged the luncheon.



*Buzz McDonald presents John with his retirement certificate.*



*Kathy pins on John's retirement pin.*

## 2000 GS Pay Table Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA, NH, ME, CT Salary Table

Grade	Annual Rates for Steps (in dollars)									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	15,357	15,868	16,380	16,887	17,400	17,700	18,202	18,712	18,732	19,211
2	17,266	17,675	18,248	18,732	18,941	19,498	20,055	20,612	21,169	21,725
3	18,839	19,467	20,095	20,722	21,350	21,978	22,606	23,233	23,861	24,489
4	21,148	21,853	22,558	23,263	23,969	24,674	25,379	26,085	26,790	27,495
5	23,661	24,449	25,238	26,026	26,814	27,602	28,391	29,179	29,967	30,756
6	26,374	27,253	28,132	29,011	29,890	30,769	31,648	32,527	33,406	34,286
7	29,308	30,284	31,261	32,237	33,214	34,190	35,167	36,143	37,120	38,097
8	32,458	33,539	34,621	35,703	36,785	37,866	38,948	40,030	41,111	42,193
9	35,851	37,046	38,240	39,435	40,630	41,824	43,019	44,214	45,408	46,603
10	39,481	40,797	42,113	43,430	44,746	46,063	47,379	48,696	50,012	51,329
11	43,378	44,824	46,270	47,716	49,162	50,608	52,054	53,500	54,946	56,392
12	51,989	53,721	55,454	57,187	58,920	60,652	62,385	64,118	65,851	67,583
13	61,823	63,883	65,944	68,004	70,065	72,125	74,186	76,246	78,307	80,367
14	73,056	75,491	77,926	80,361	82,795	85,230	87,665	90,100	92,534	94,969
15	85,934	88,799	91,663	94,527	97,392	100,256	103,120	105,985	108,849	111,713

\* INCORPORATING THE 3.80% GENERAL SCHEDULE INCREASE AND A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 10.72% FOR THE LOCALITY PAY AREA OF BOSTON-WORCESTER-LAWRENCE, MA-NH-ME-CT (Net Increase: 5.13%)



Photos by C.J. Allen

*Jerry 'Rudolph' Nunziato and Lt. Col. John 'Santa' Rovero call out names during the Yankee Swap.*



*Elaine Law, Bob Batt, and Richard Roach get in line for the potluck lunch portion of the celebration.*

## District celebrates holidays with potluck lunch

The Concord Park cafeteria was all decked out with decorations and holiday cheer December 17, as the New England District celebrated the holiday season with a potluck lunch and festivities.

December is the month in which Ramadan, Chanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza are celebrated.

Holiday music was piped through the entire building and season-appropriate movies were played on the large screen televisions for the enjoyment of celebrants. The potluck lunch began at 1 p.m. Offerings included hot and cold plates, munchies and desserts of all kinds.

Two Yankee swaps, held back-to-back, were run by Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Engineer. Both swaps

brought many laughs and lots of cheering from the crowd.

After the Yankee Swaps, Dick Carlson, Chief of Construction/Operations and Chair of this Year's Holiday Party Committee, hosted a scaled down version of "Do You Want to Be A Millionaire?" District family members were broken up into teams and led into the theatre to play the CD Rom version of the popular television game show. This year's winners were 'Phil's Team' from Regulatory Division.

This year's holiday party could not have taken place had it not been for the organization and dedication of volunteers who donated food and the 1999 Holiday Party Committee. The committee consisted of one member from every division and separate office.



*'Phil's Team' concentrates on their answers during the game show.*



*Col. Osterndorf and his daughter, Hannah, pick a gift from the Yankee Swap table.*



Improvements to the dam include a new log boom (left) and the new access bridge across the French River (right)

# Repairs to Hodges Village Dam completed

*Continued from page 1*

completed in December 1959 at a cost of \$4.5 million. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 2,140 feet long and 55 feet high; four earthfill dikes with stone slope protection totaling 2,600 feet in length with a maximum height of 50 feet; two gated rectangular concrete conduits each six feet high, five feet wide and 206 feet long; a chute spillway cut in rock, with a 125-foot-long concrete weir. The weir's crest elevation is 19 feet lower than the top of the dam.

The flood storage area of the project, which is normally empty and is only utilized to store flood waters, covers 740 acres and extends upstream about three miles. The dam can store up to 4.17 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. Hodges Village

Dam has prevented over \$52 million in damages to date.

This repair work began in September 1997 and was completed on time 26 months later.

The District designed and constructed a non-reinforced concrete cutoff wall along the main dam and along dike 1, and an upstream random fill blanket and a downstream drainage blanket between dikes 2 and 3 to solve the problem. The dam embankment was constructed of semi-pervious sand and gravel fill with no impervious core or any seepage control features other than a partial downstream rockfill zone.

An investigation was undertaken in late 1993 to evaluate the dam and to develop a permanent solution to the recurring seepage and erosion problems. The nine-month effort included

subsurface borings, falling head permeability tests, piezometer reading analyses, and an evaluation of the original construction and foundation materials. The results of these additional studies indicated the presence of highly pervious foundation materials beneath the dam embankment. Bedrock is located between 10 and 135 feet below the top of the dam.

The cutoff walls for both the dam and dike 1 are 31.5 inches (800 mm) thick and were constructed by alternately placing tremie concrete in 23-foot-wide and 9-foot-wide sections (called primary panels and secondary panels, respectively) along the length of the structure.

The cutoff wall for the main dam embankment is approximately 2,075 feet in length, and up to 140 feet deep. The cutoff wall for dike 1 is 1,300 feet in length with a maximum depth of 78 feet.

Both cutoff walls extend five feet into sound bedrock. The cutoff wall for the dam has 137 panels. The cutoff wall for dike 1 has 83 panels. In all, about 34,000 cubic yards of concrete was brought on site to construct the two cutoff walls.

Bauer of America Corp., which is headquartered in Clearwater, Florida, the contractor for the project, used specially designed trench-cutters to excavate through the subsurface materials and bedrock. As the cutter operated, a complex network of pipes was



Workers clean up rocks downstream of the main dam at Hodges Village.

Photos by C.J. Allen



*New pavement was installed on the top of the dam after construction.*

utilized to pump a bentonite slurry into the panel to keep the trench walls from caving in until concrete was placed.

Other pipes in the network carried the bentonite slurry laden with excavated materials out of the working trench excavation and back to the desander area where vibratory screens, hydrocyclones and settling basins removed the excavated materials from the bentonite. The clean, desanded bentonite was then returned to the trench excavation to be used again. The excavated materials that were removed in this cleaning process are reused as random fill material throughout the project.

In addition to the two trench-cutters, two hydraulic clamshells with chisels were used as needed to break up extremely hard boulders and bedrock encountered in various places.

In order to give the contractor enough working room, the top ten feet of the main dam was temporarily removed. That has now been replaced, and the top of the dam has been repaved and guard rails installed.

Other major work included constructing and subsequently restoring of access and haul roads and staging areas, removing and reinstalling the pedestrian access way (bridge) to the gate house, and reinstalling the top of the dam embankment complete with new underground electrical and telephone lines, duct banks, manholes, guard rail, piezometer instrumentation/

shelter. In addition, the contractor removed existing overhead electrical and telephone service and replaced the cable log boom system with new logs and relocated anchors.

According to Randy, there were some challenges to the project. One of the biggest was cutting through the extremely hard bedrock located along the western end of dike 1. In addition, the boulders (up to 15 feet in diameter) that the machinery had to cut through were extremely hard both at the dam and dike 1. "The cutters weren't able to cut these rock types easily," he explained. "They used a 17-ton chisel to expedite the excavation process by breaking up the boulders and bedrock and then they used the cutter to excavate on through it. There was a large boulder layer on top of the bedrock along the western end of dike 1. Boy, was it difficult cutting through those boulders."

In addition, the District needed to ensure that the joint between each primary and secondary panel was watertight. This was accomplished by placing the two primary panels first, then excavating the in-between secondary panel by overexcavating six inches of the concrete from the primary panel on each side assuring a good bonding surface for the tremie concrete to be placed for the secondary panel.

According to Randy, Verticality control of the panel alignment excava-

tion was also required for watertightness of each panel by assuring that no less than 18 inches of the full joint contact was made across the width of the panel for the full depth of each panel. Bauer's cutters were equipped with high precision inclinometers built into the frame of the cutters. By the use of an electronic processor mounted in the cab of the base carrier cranes, the vertical deviation of the excavation in both the X and Y directions to the nearest centimeter is known at all times on a "real-time-basis." If a misalignment is shown on the monitor the operators can take immediate corrective action. "We also took core samples along the joint after the concrete wall was constructed to check for soundness," said Randy.

The natural ridge between dikes 2 and 3 was converted from steep excavated earth slopes to reshaped stone protection slopes with access roadways. Other improvements included a permanent access road across the French River, a new parking lot with quick access to the river, and a new log boom.

Other New England District employees who played key roles in the success of the Hodges Village Dam project are: Mark Vance (Geotechnical Expert), Pete Jackson (former Project Manager), Mike Keegan (current Project Manager), Nick Forbes (Engineering Manager), Jeff Perchak (former Construction Project Engineer), Christine Johnson-Battista (current Construction Project Engineer), and Chris Caisse (Construction Representative).

Hodges Village Dam lies across the French River, about ten miles south of Worcester, Mass. In conjunction with Buffumville Lake, Hodges Village Dam reduces flood levels on the French River in Oxford, Webster, and Dudley, Mass., and Thompson, Conn.

Hodges Village Dam also helps to reduce flooding extending downstream from Putnam, Conn., on the Quinebaug River to Norwich, Conn., on the Thames River.

## District and EPA hold open house at New Bedford Superfund Site

The New England District and the Environmental Protection Agency co-hosted a ceremony December 3 that celebrated the end of phase one and the beginning of phase two of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Project clean-up.

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, and John DeVillars, head of EPA Region I, were on hand to watch the first truckload of material leave the project.

"We at the Corps of Engineers are extremely pleased to play a role in removing the hazardous waste which plagues the city and surrounding towns," said Col. Osterndorf. "Our construction management expertise, coupled with our intimate knowledge of the waterway, makes our partnership in this effort most fitting. Also working with us to design and construct the project is our prime contractor, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation."

The EPA requested the Corps of Engineers to clean-up PCB contaminated sediments from New Bedford Harbor located in the city of New Bedford and the towns of Acushnet and Fairhaven in southeastern Massachusetts.

The Harbor was contaminated from the 1940s through the 1970s by two electrical capacitor manufacturing plants that discharged PCB waste. It is one of the largest and most challenging hazardous waste sites in the country. Water, sediment and biota (the animal and plant life of a region or period) have been contaminated endangering public health and the environment with PCB levels in sediment exceeding 100,000 parts per million (ppm).

The Corps of Engineers has been supporting EPA on this project since the mid-1980s. Its initial efforts focused on site investigations and feasibility studies, which were followed by on-site pilot studies of dredges and dredged material disposal techniques.

"I am confident that we will have a



Photos by C.J. Allen

*Worker washes tires of truck loaded with contaminated material before it drives off-site.*

harbor that is not only clean and safe for residents, but a harbor that is part of a vibrant and productive New Bedford – with fishing once again in the harbor, with businesses and valuable open space along the harbor, and with a strong economy," said Mr. DeVillars.

New Bedford Harbor is the home of one of the largest fishing fleets and is one of the oldest recreational and commercial navigation harbors along the East Coast.

In 1966 the Corps built, and currently operates and maintains, a hurricane barrier at the mouth of the harbor to protect the fleet and the heavily

developed flood plain from coastal storms. There is a Federal Navigation Channel running up through the harbor, built and maintained by the Corps, which is currently under consideration for dredging and deepening due to the anticipated growth in commercial navigation.

The upper & lower harbor phase of the project includes the on-going investigations, design and construction to remediate the remaining 450,000 cy of the harbor's contaminated sediments and is estimated to cost over \$300 million. It is the largest project ever undertaken by the New England District, as well as, the largest PCB Superfund cleanup in the country. The project includes:

- constructing four-Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs) along 1.3 miles of shoreline to permanently contain the dredged sediments. They require the acquisition of real estate and relocating utilities, including CSOs and underground tunnels for power cables. The CDFs will be constructed of either earthen dike or cellular steel sheet-pile walls and create 43 acres of new land for use as passive recreation or for future development by the city with construction starting this spring through 2002;
- enlarging the existing water treat-



*Truck carrying hazardous material leaves the New Bedford Superfund Site.*



*Heavy equipment dig up hazardous material from the Superfund site.*

ment plant four-fold to handle about two million gallons per day of decanted water from the dredging. Water quality, sediment and air are all being monitored to control contamination and protect the public health;

- dredging or excavating about 450,000 cy of contaminated sediments in the harbor and restoring the wetlands, using two to four hydraulic dredges and mechanical excavators, starting in spring 2001 through summer 2005;

- final protective caps will be installed on the CDFs after the dredged material has consolidated for about three years and be completed about 2009.

Project Manager Bob Hunt commented: "I appreciate the exceptional job which the Team has and will be accomplishing to adjust to the changing design, field conditions and requirements of the EPA, public and potential development. We have a long road ahead and a tremendous challenge to meet the project quality, budget, schedule and goals of our clients."

The initial site remediation ("the hot spot") was carried out in the early 1990s under EPA's Record of Decision (ROD #1) and involved dredging 14,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment with PCB levels exceeding 4,000 ppm. Approximately 450,000 cy of contaminated sediments (up to 4,000 ppm PCBs) remain in the Upper and Lower harbor which need to be removed and

permanently stored in Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs) to be built along the shore of the harbor.

#### **ROD#1 HOT SPOT**

Implementation of the Hot Spot project started in 1990 with the signing of ROD #1 and was followed by the modification of the CDF used for pilot studies and the design and construction of a water treatment plant. The facilities were completed and dredging of 14,000 cy of contaminated sediment was accomplished in 1994/95 with the material temporarily stored in the CDF. Public support reversed the decision to incinerate the sediments, and the site was maintained until EPA amended the ROD in April 1999. The cost to remediate and maintain the Hot Spot facilities through the summer 1999 was



*Col. Osterndorf addresses the audience at the Open House.*

\$30million.

With the amended ROD #1, the EPA decided to de-water and stabilize the Hot Spot sediments stored in the CDF. This process is currently underway by the Corps and its contractors in order to prepare the material for excavation and transport to an off-site disposal facility. The excavation of the material from the CDF and disposal should be completed by April 2000 at an estimated cost of \$10 million and will complete the Hot Spot project.

Project Manager Laureen Borochnan said, "Hot Spot dewatering, stabilization and removal have been fast track efforts for all involved. The Corps and contractor teams are working hard to meet an aggressive schedule."

#### **ROD #2 UPPER & LOWER HARBOR**

EPA's ROD #2 was signed in September 1998 for the design and construction of this latest phase. The Corps is responsible for this phase, which is currently underway, for this 11-year construction project. The Corps prime contractor, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp., is assisting in the design and construction under a Total Environmental Restoration Contract (TERC) for the implementation of RODs #1 and #2.

New England District employees currently working with EPA on this project are: Bob Hunt, Bob Abbott, Laureen Borochnan, Maurice Beaudoin, Randy Godfrey, Mary Roth, Rick Casano, Bob Davis, Mark Desouza, Ed Fallon, Patti Gamache, Steve Gately, Mark Geib, Kerry LeBlanc, Paul L'Heureux, Maryellen Iorio, Jay MacKay, Wendell Mah, Erik Matthews, Bob Meader, George Norton, Ian Osgerby, Mark Paiva, Sally Rigione, Tim Rezendes, Tom Rosato, Paul Schimelfenyg, Karen Schofield, Rose Schmidt, Heather Sullivan, Mike Walsh, Quentin Walsh, Marie Wojtas, and Sheila Winston-Vincuilla.

The Public Affairs Office was instrumental in the public involvement plans supporting the project.

# Advisory Board Reviews AMTL Cleanup Options

by Sue Douglas  
Public Affairs Office

The Restoration Advisory Board for the Army Material Technology Laboratory (AMTL) reviewed remediation options for the Charles River Park portion of the former laboratory at its meeting on December 14, 1999. The session, which was open to the public, began at 7 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room of Watertown, Mass., Town Hall.

"We looked at the various alternatives for cleaning up the site which have been developed, screened, and evaluated in detail," said Paul Brennan, Chairman of the Board. "The Army and its consultant were on hand to outline the options considered for making the site ready for public use."

The Restoration Advisory Board, organized in 1994, oversees the base closure activities for AMTL associated with assuring that the land is suitably cleaned up for its planned future use.

The Charles River Park parcel consists of 11 acres immediately adjacent to the Charles River and is bordered by North Beacon Street. Although owned by the U.S. Army, the area has been leased for many years to the Metropolitan District Commission for operation and maintenance as part of its overall park system.

"A number of cleanup alternatives were evaluated, and

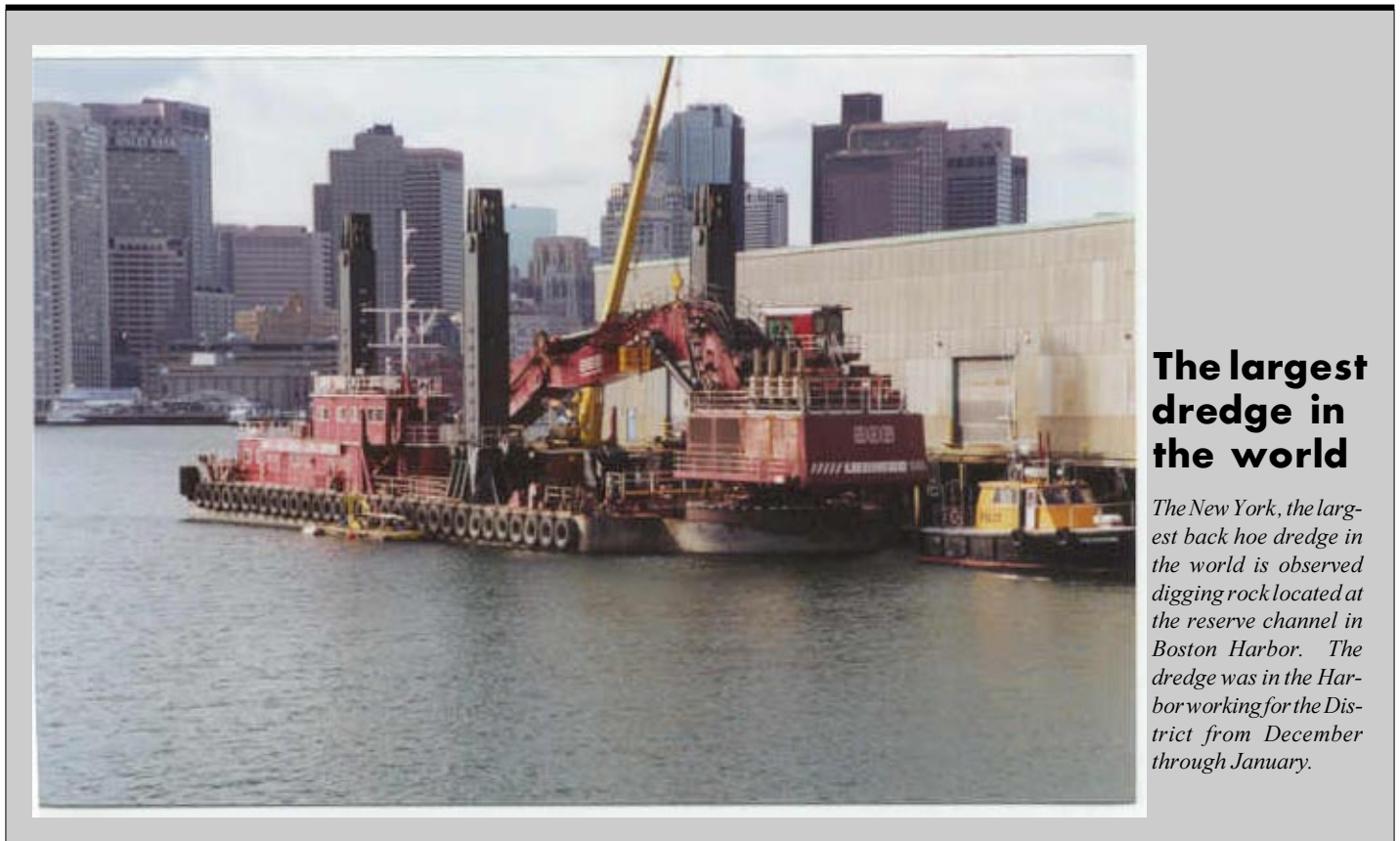
two appear to be the most practical, considering the level of contamination and possible future use," said Dennis Waskiewicz, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers is managing all required remediation and property disposal for the Army.

The two most feasible remediation measures include excavation of contaminated soils, with either off site disposal or reuse. One plan calls for excavating to a depth of four feet, while the other calls for digging down two feet. In both scenarios, the disturbed areas would be backfilled with clean soil.

The costs associated with these two options range from an estimated \$2.1 million for the two-foot excavation to \$3.6 million for the four-foot plan.

Cleanup efforts at the park began in 1997 but were suspended when it was determined the amount of contaminated material exceeded that which was originally identified. "The remediation was stopped to allow us to reevaluate not only the quantities on the site, but also the best method for accomplishing additional cleanup," Waskiewicz added.

The new remediation plans are contained in an Addendum Report which is currently being circulated for public and agency comment. Once all comments received have been addressed, a final cleanup plan will be developed and implemented. It is expected that cleanup could begin as early as July 2000 and, depending on the method chosen, would take six months to complete.



## The largest dredge in the world

*The New York, the largest back hoe dredge in the world is observed digging rock located at the reserve channel in Boston Harbor. The dredge was in the Harbor working for the District from December through January.*

# Retiree News

## The late Bob Brazeau remembered a year later

Construction/Operations retiree Bob Brazeau passed away a year ago this month. According to Mrs. Brazeau, she still receives cards and letters of sympathy from people who knew him.

Mr. Brazeau retired in 1990 with over 39 years of federal service. When Bob joined the Corps in New England in November 1956 he began as an Engineering Aid at Buffumville Dam.

Through a succession of promotions, he retired as Chief of the Environmental Laboratory. "Your numerous



Photo provided by Mrs. Brazeau  
**Bob Brazeau**

letters of commendation and awards received during your career, such as those for the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier and Hurricane Agnes, to name only a few, are meaningful tributes that reflect the quality of support you provided to the Corps and of your personal commitment to Federal Service," former Division Engineer Col. Philip Harris wrote in a letter of congratulations.

Although he has been gone a year, Mr. Brazeau's contributions are still felt at the Corps of Engineers.

## Congress Guarantees Veterans' Funeral Honors

By Linda D. Kozaryn  
American Forces Press Service

By law, as of Jan. 1, all eligible veterans will be entitled to military funeral honors signifying America's gratitude for their honorable service. Upon request, two service members will fold and present the American flag to surviving family members, and a bugler will sound "Taps." If a bugler is not available, a high-quality CD will be used.

At least one member of the funeral detail will be from the deceased veteran's parent military service. The other may be from the same service or another military service.

Other authorized providers, such as members of a veteran's organization, may be used to augment the military detail. No particular rank is specified in the law, but the services by tradition have ensured the person presenting the flag to the family is at least the grade of the deceased veteran. "We believe this is a very important, meaningful and moving ceremony. It's an appropriate tribute for all of our veterans," said Gail McGinn, principal director to the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Personnel Support, Families and Education. "People say the finality of 'Taps' and the

presentation of the flag provide an emotional closure. The ceremony honoring the deceased veteran can be seen as an affirmation of the person's life, as well as an expression of the nation's gratitude."

Veterans' families have had a hard time obtaining funeral honors due to the growing number of requests and to concurrent military force reductions, McGinn said. By law, veterans are now eligible for military funeral honors if they served in the active military and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, or if they were a member or former member of the Selective Reserve. Veterans are ineligible if they are convicted of federal or state capital offenses and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole or receive the death penalty.

DoD's new policy calls for funeral directors, rather than families, to contact the military. Military funeral honors must be requested -- they aren't provided automatically, McGinn noted.

McGinn said about 24,000 funeral directors are in line to receive DoD kits containing a directory of regional funeral honors coordinators and brochures with frequently asked questions, instructions on the proper folding of the flag and the sequence of the ceremony. The kit

also will include a compact disc of "Taps" professionally recorded during 1999 Memorial Day services at Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery.

DoD officials also are sending the "Taps" CDs to veterans service organizations and to military units that will provide funeral honors. In lieu of a military bugler or the CD, families may choose to seek a professional or volunteer musician to trumpet the poignant "Taps" farewell, McGinn said.

DoD plans to issue training videotapes starting early next year to units that will conduct honors ceremonies. The tapes will set a DoD standard in terms of how the basic ceremony is conducted.

A DoD Web site explaining the funeral honors process is scheduled to go online January 1 at <http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil>. A toll free number, 1-877-MIL-HONR, is also available for funeral directors to coordinate ceremonies.

"We believe it is important to demonstrate the country's gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have, faithfully defended our country," McGinn said. "We want the Department's Military Funeral Honors Program to do that for our veterans and their families." (Paul Stone contributed to this story.)

## Dredging up the past . . .



*Brian E. Valiton receives his First Lieutenant's bars from Colonel Frank P. Bane in Waltham as an engineer trainee in this August 24, 1970, photo. Currently, Brian works for Regulatory Branch.*

Photo provided by Brian Valiton

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